

ORIGINAL

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED



JUL 16 1999

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

July 15, 1999

The Honorable William E. Kennard, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Reference: File No. NSD-L-99-24 / CC Docket No. 92-105 /

Dear Chairman Kennard:

On July 14, 1999, the METROPLAN ORLANDO Board approved Resolution No. 99-07 supporting the petition before the Federal Communications Commission to establish a nationwide standard abbreviated dialing number for use in providing travel-related information to the public. Enclosed is a copy of that Resolution.

This petition represents an important opportunity to make more information available to the public through the use of Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) technology. Substantial amounts of money have been invested in ITS technology with very positive results. Increased investments are expected to further improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our nation's transportation facilities.

Thank you for considering our position on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Harold W. Barley".

Harold W. Barley
Executive Director

Enclosure

No. of Copies rec'd
List ABCDE

044



APPROVED BY
METROPLAN ORLANDO BOARD
7/14/99 *WJLW*

RESOLUTION NO. 99-07

SUBJECT:

**SUPPORT FOR PETITION BEFORE THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION (FCC)
TO ESTABLISH A NATIONWIDE STANDARD ABBREVIATED DIALING NUMBER
FOR USE IN PROVIDING TRAVEL RELATED INFORMATION TO THE PUBLIC**

WHEREAS, Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) are the duly designated and constituted agencies under federal and state law responsible for carrying out the urban transportation planning and programming process for urbanized areas; and

WHEREAS, METROPLAN ORLANDO is the MPO for the Orlando metropolitan area and is responsible for regional transportation planning activities in a three-county area (Orange, Seminole and Osceola Counties); and

WHEREAS, the Orlando metropolitan area is one of the fastest growing regions in the country in terms of population and employment growth and has developed into one of the top tourist and business traveler destinations in the world; and

WHEREAS, this prosperity has resulted in a tremendous increase in travel demand to, through and within the Orlando metropolitan area and all economic indicators point to the fact that travel demand will continue to increase at a rapid rate; and

WHEREAS, METROPLAN ORLANDO is committed to providing this region with an efficient and effective multi-modal transportation system that supports our continued economic development and preserves the quality of life that we cherish; and

WHEREAS, we are increasing the capacity of our highway and transit systems but face constraints that have resulted in annual increases in the level of traffic congestion experienced by residents, businesses and visitors; and

WHEREAS, the use of Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) technology is considered to be part of the solution for making more efficient use of existing and planned components of our region's transportation system and this technology will be especially useful in providing critical, real-time information to the traveling public; and

WHEREAS, our Long Range Transportation Plan and our Transportation Improvement Programs provide for substantial investments in ITS-related technology; and

WHEREAS, it is essential that a convenient means of public access be provided to traveler information centers in order to maximize the return on investments in ITS technology; and

WHEREAS, having a single national telephone number for traveler information – one that could be used anywhere in the country to connect with a regional or local source of traveler information – would be a very significant action that will benefit the entire transportation industry, the traveling public and commercial users; and

WHEREAS, a single national telephone number would be especially useful in the Orlando metropolitan area because we have (1) such a large number of tourists and business travelers; (2) the largest rental car market in the nation; (3) a huge influx of new residents each year; (4) there is a significant turnover in population each year; (5) the amount of daily travel into our market from adjacent areas is increasing, requiring our solutions to be of a more regional nature; and

WHEREAS, the United States Department of Transportation has petitioned the Federal Communications Commission requesting that a national standard abbreviated dialing number (N11) be established for use throughout the country so the public can easily gain access to traveler information; and

WHEREAS, this action is supported by the United States Conference of Mayors, the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) and the American Public Transit Association (APTA);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that METROPLAN ORLANDO urges the Federal Communications Commission to approve the United States Department of Transportation's petition for the establishment of a national standard abbreviated dialing number (N11) for traveler information throughout the country.

Passed and duly adopted at a regular meeting of the METROPLAN ORLANDO Board on the 14th day of July, 1999.

CERTIFICATE

The undersigned duly qualified and acting Chairman of the METROPLAN ORLANDO Board certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted at a legally convened meeting of the METROPLAN ORLANDO Board.



Mary Jane Arrington
Chairman

Attest:



Virginia Lewis-Whittington
Recording Secretary